

Adolescent Talking Points

General

- There is now a COVID-19 vaccine authorized and recommended for use among adolescents 12-15.
 - The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is available to those 12 years of age and older. The decision by FDA and CDC to expand and recommend the use of the vaccine among adolescents followed an in-depth review of available safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy data.
 - Adolescents age 12-15 represent approximately 17 million people in the United States.
 - At least 1.5 million 12-17-year-olds have gotten COVID-19 during the pandemic.
 - While fewer children have been sick with COVID-19 compared to adults, [children can be infected with COVID-19](#), and there is no way to tell in advance if your adolescent will get a severe or mild case. Without vaccination, your adolescent may be at risk for getting seriously ill and suffering pain, disability, and even death from COVID-19.
- COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective in adolescents.
 - Thousands of adolescents received COVID-19 vaccines during clinical trials and tens of millions of adults in the United States have received COVID-19 vaccines under the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.
 - This vaccine can help protect your adolescent from getting infected or sick from COVID-19.
 - Adolescents, like adults, may have some side effects, which are normal signs that their body is building protection. These side effects may affect your adolescent's ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.
 - Parents/caregivers can enroll their adolescent in v-safe, a free, smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins. Through v-safe, you can report any side effects your adolescent may have after vaccination.
- Getting your adolescent vaccinated can bring them one step closer to enjoying the activities they have missed.
 - We can protect our adolescents by helping them make a lifetime of healthy choices.
 - We can also protect adolescents by simply getting them vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - COVID-19 vaccination is COVID-19 prevention.
 - Widespread vaccination is critical to helping us end this unprecedented pandemic.

Consent

- There is no federal, legal requirement for parent or caregiver consent for COVID-19 vaccination, or any other vaccination.
- Most, if not all, states and territories have long-standing laws and regulations regarding consent for vaccination of minors.
- COVID-19 vaccine must be administered according to applicable state and territorial vaccination laws, including those related to consent.

Co-administration

- COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be administered without regard to timing. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines on the same day, as well as co-administration within 14 days.
- It is unknown whether reactogenicity is increased with coadministration, including with other vaccines known to be more reactogenic, such as adjuvanted vaccines.
- When deciding whether to co-administer with COVID-19 vaccines, providers should consider whether the patient is behind or at risk of becoming behind on recommended vaccines and the reactogenicity profile of the vaccines.